

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 550
By Peach

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Bruce Slatten and the 1995-1996 Perry County High School boys' basketball team on finishing Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state runner-up.

WHEREAS, with a consistent record of excellence unequaled in Tennessee high school basketball history, the 1995-1996 Perry County boys' basketball team made their twentieth appearance in the state tournament, more than any other squad ever has, and finished the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A Tournament as runner-up; and

WHEREAS, Perry County won the coveted regular season District 12-A championship, with a perfect 8-0 record; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team took home the title trophy at the District 12-A Tournament, beating Collinwood 74-54 and Summertown 79-64; and

WHEREAS, despite strong competition, the Vikings set sail in treacherous Region 6-A Tournament waters and emerged victorious in the championship battle, defeating the Culleoka Warriors 87-30, the tenacious Columbia Academy Bulldogs 72-54 and the Summertown Eagles 76-64; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate game, they overwhelmed Cascade 76-35; and

WHEREAS, at the Class A State Tournament, Perry County bested Hancock County 77-55 and West Carroll 51-39, to reach the finals of the State Tournament for the sixth time. They

lost the title game by one point to Bradford; and

WHEREAS, they finished with an exemplary 30-3 overall record, a rare .909 winning percentage; and

WHEREAS, **Coach Bruce Slatten**, who was honored as TSSAA Class A Coach of the Year and Midstate Coach of the Year, and his capable **Assistant Coach J. B. Trull**, have done a marvelous job preparing the team for the rigors of championship play; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: sharpshooter junior center **Kirk Haston**, who had a perfect 4.0 grade point average, scored more than 1,300 career points, averaged 23 points and 10.5 rebounds per game, was a finalist for the prestigious Gill Gideon Class A Mr. Basketball Award and was named first team All-State, State Tournament Most Valuable Player, first team All-Midstate, All Region 6-A Tournament, All-District 12-A Tournament and regular season All-District 12-A; senior guard **Austin Morris**, who led the midstate in assists and was chosen Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region 6-A Tournament, All-District 12-A Tournament and regular season All-District 12-A; sophomore guard **Cory Brown**, a Honorable Mention All-State, All-Midstate, All-Region 6-A Tournament and All-District 12-A Tournament honoree; junior forward **Chris Jones**, who was selected Honorable Mention All-State, All-State Tournament, All-Midstate, All-Region 6-A Tournament, All-District 12-A Tournament and regular season All-District 12-A and senior forward **Nicholas Brown**, an All-District 12-A choice; and

WHEREAS, each of the other players, juniors **Chad Marrs** and **Phillip Carroll**, sophomores **Blake Warren**, **Mitch Howard**, **Caleb Dunkle**, **Shannon Hamm**, **Nick Coble**, **Mitchell Rhodes**, **Jason Culp**, **Ben Mercer** and **Jeremy Pafford**, and freshmen **Clay Pope**, **Josh Warren**, **Dustin Morris**, **Barton Coble** and **Phillip Sides**, have contributed to the success of the team; and

WHEREAS, under the expert sponsorship of **LaDon Ezell**, the enthusiastic cheerleaders were **Brandi Marshall, Mary Ann Smith, Jana Duncan, Jennifer Yarbrough, Sabrina Duncan, Jana Barber, Ashley Doyle, Tish Wilsdorf, Raygon Ezell, Andrea Simmons** and **Trena Duncan**; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working managers were **Michael Averett, Kenny Tohn, Michael Jones, Matt Trull, Adam Trull, Ryan Parnell, Jeremy Hester** and **Kevin Treadwell**; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize the numerous accomplishments of this outstanding team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Bruce Slatten and the 1995-1996 Perry County High School boys' basketball team on their many accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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